

VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 318

To: Configuration/Site Committee
From: R. C. Walker
Subject: Notes from meeting of 18 Jan. 1984.

Those present were: Brundige, Cotton, Crane, Hogg, Jones, Kellermann, Napier, Peery, Romney, Schwab, Spargo, Temple, Thompson, Wade, and Walker.

Dave Hogg described the results that have since come out in VLBA Memo 312 on the water vapor fluctuations in Puerto Rico. The time has come to make a final decision on whether to use Puerto Rico. The matter will be discussed at the Science Committee Meeting on 10 Feb. We probably will decide to go ahead with a Puerto Rico site. We must also decide how to interpret Dave's data on the different sites so that when selection of a specific site begins, we know how to weigh performance relative to logistical considerations.

We are definitely planning to use the Pie Town site near the VLA. That will be the first site on which an antenna will be built. The process of acquiring access to a specific piece of land has started. The site belongs to the BLM so there should not be too much difficulty. We will need an Environmental Assessment Statement (as opposed to an Environmental Impact Statement) which can be prepared by BLM. The BLM recommends that we reserve about 40 acres in order to provide a buffer against future development. We may acquire the land in the form of a Right of Way.

The major concern about the Pie Town site is its proximity to a power line. The line is currently 24 kV and should not be a problem. However there were plans at one time to upgrade to 72 kV which would cause interference because of corona. Those plans have been dropped for now but they might be renewed at some future date. An attempt will be made to find a site behind a hill from the power line but this could still be a problem in the future.

RFI testing was discussed. Some testing will be done by people already at some of the sites. However it was felt that NRAO should do the final testing to avoid possible bias problems.

Jon Spargo discussed his visit to Hawaii over the holidays. His major findings are in VLBA Memo 309 and 309a. It is clear that we must still seriously consider the implications of going to the summit of Mauna Kea - conditions can be severe. Peery and Wade will visit Hawaii very soon.